

The Robert J. and Deborah A. Chalfin Family Foundation, Inc. Lecture



## Neve Shalom

250 Grove Avenue, Metuchen NJ 08840

**Fri., Jan. 18, 2013 7:30 p.m.**

*Services followed by talk and refreshments*

## GEORGE VECSEY

### ***AMERICAN LIVES: NY Times Sports Columnist Discusses Loving Our Country Through the Careers of Others***



George Vecsey has written about such events as the FIFA World Cup and the Olympics and on a wide variety of sports including tennis, football, basketball, hockey, soccer, and boxing, but considers baseball, the sport he's covered since 1960, his favorite sport, and has written more books about baseball than any other sport.

He is the author of more than a dozen books, including *Baseball: A History of America's Favorite Game* and *Loretta Lynn: Coal Miner's Daughter*, with American country singer Loretta Lynn, which was made into an Academy Award-winning film. Vecsey has also served as a national and religion reporter for The New York Times, interviewing the Dalai Lama, former British prime minister Tony Blair, and a host of other noteworthy figures.

In addition to assisting Loretta Lynn, Vecsey has also helped several other celebrities and high-profile figures write their autobiographies, including country singer, Barbara Mandrell, and Chinese human rights activist, Harry Wu.

***Sponsored by The Robert J. and Deborah A. Chalfin Family Foundation, Inc.***

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**NEW YORK TIMES SPORTS COLUMNIST GEORGE VECSEY  
TO SPEAK AT NEVE SHALOM ON JANUARY 18, 2013 AT 7:30 P.M.**

**Metuchen, New Jersey December 12, 2012...** *New York Times* Sports Columnist, George Vecsey, to speak at Congregation Neve Shalom, 250 Grove Avenue, Metuchen, New Jersey on January 18, 2013 at 7:30 pm.

George Vecsey, a long-time journalist with *The New York Times*, will be appearing at Congregation Neve Shalom on Friday, January 18, 2013, speaking about "American Lives - A *New York Times* Sports Columnist Discusses Loving Our Country Through the Careers of Others." Mr. Vecsey's talk will follow Shabbat Services, which begin at 7:30 pm.

Vecsey wrote the *Sports of the Times* column from 1982 through the end of 2011 before taking the buyout and continues to write several times a month as a contributing columnist. Before that, he was an Appalachian correspondent and covered religion for the *Times*.

He has written six national best-selling books, including *Stan Musial: An American Life*, a biography of the great slugger with the St. Louis Cardinals, which was published in 2011. Among his other books are: *Coal Miner's Daughter* (with Loretta Lynn) in 1976 and *Baseball: A History of America's Favorite Game* in 2006. He also wrote *One Sunset a Week*, the story of a radical coal-mining family during the Vietnam/Nixon years, in 1974 and *Joy in Mudville* about the 1969 Mets. During his long career he has interviewed people as diverse as the Dalai Lama, Tony Blair, Muhammad Ali, Martina Navratilova, Joyce Carol Oates, and Casey Stengel, in addition to Loretta Lynn.

Vecsey has specialized in international sports, covering eight consecutive World Cups of soccer as well as all the Summer Olympic Games beginning with Los Angeles in 1984

and has followed Lance Armstrong on the Tour de France and covered over one dozen Wimbledons.

Baseball was his first love, and he has interviewed Yankee figures like George Steinbrenner, Billy Martin, Mickey Mantle and Reggie Jackson. "I used to advise George to leave town because he was not a real New Yorker," Vecsey recalls. "Oddly enough, he did not take my advice."

Vecsey became a fan of Musial when he used to terrorize the Brooklyn Dodgers – with a smile on his face, Vecsey adds. While working on the Musial biography starting in 2008, Vecsey became aware of Musial's father's journey from Poland to the murderous zinc mills of Donora, Pennsylvania, and realized that Musial's drive to succeed came from his childhood, living among many other ethnic newcomers. Since then, Vecsey adds, he has become more aware of the lives of people who came to the United States and contributed so much to their adopted country. He will be glad to answer questions about sports or anything else, as part of his talk.

This lecture is being sponsored by The Robert J. and Deborah A. Chalfin Family Foundation, Inc. For more information visit [www.chalfin.com/foundation.aspx](http://www.chalfin.com/foundation.aspx).